

Appl. No.: 09/774,999

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Amtd. Dated: August 10, 2004

Reply to Office Action of: April 29, 2004

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A session initiated protocol (SIP) system for communications between a client and at least one home networked appliance, comprising:

a user agent server (UAS) processor connected to said appliance so as to relay commands to said appliance and receive status information from said appliance;

a user agent client (UAC) processor having the capacity to send to said UAS processor over a communications network SIP command messages intended for said appliance and to receive status information messages about said appliance from said UAS processor, said UAS processor translating received SIP commands into commands recognized by the appliance and translating information provided by said appliance into SIP status messages for transmission over the communications network to said UAC processor; and

wherein the SIP command message includes a universal resource locator (URL) without location information otherwise specified in the SIP message and the command message has the connection established phased removed such that no session is established between the UAC processor and UAS processor, and the command message has a generalized payload body with at least one of control and query instructions specific to home networked appliances.

Claim 2 (cancelled).

Claim 3 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1, wherein the command message is a SIP DO type.

Claim 4 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1, wherein the command message payload is a device messaging protocol (DMP) MIME type.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1, wherein the appliance is SIP enabled so that it can interpret signals directly from said UAS processor.

Claim 7 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1, further including an appliance controller located between said UAS processor and said appliance, said controller translating commands from said UAS processor into signals which control

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operation of said appliance and translating status signals from said appliance into signals which can be translated by said UAS processor.

Claim 8 (currently amended): A session initiated protocol (SIP) system for communications between a client and at least one of a plurality of home networked appliance in one geographic region, comprising:

a user agent server (UAS) processor connected by a local area network to at least two of said appliances, said UAS processor having address mapping capability so as to direct commands to a selected at least one of said at least two appliances and receive status information from said at least one appliance;

a user agent client (UAC) processor having the capacity to send to said UAS processor over a communications network SIP command messages intended for said at least one appliance and to receive status information messages about said at least one appliance from said UAS processor, said UAS processor translating received SIP commands into commands recognized by said at least one appliance and translating information provided by said at least one appliance into SIP status messages for transmission over the communications network to said UAC processor; and

wherein the SIP command message includes a universal resource locator (URL) without location information otherwise specified in the SIP message, the command message identifies the appliance to which the message is addressed, the command message has the connection established phased removed such that no session is established between the UAC processor and UAS processor, and the command message has a generalized payload body with at least one of control and query instructions specific to home networked appliances.

Claim 9 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 8, wherein the status information from each of the plurality of appliances identifies the appliance from which it originated, and the address mapping of the UAS processor includes an identification of the appliance in the SIP status messages sent to said UAC.

Claim 10 (cancelled).

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (cancelled).

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Claim 13 (currently amended): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1 further utilizing SIP ~~INVITE~~, SUBSCRIBE and NOTIFY message types as identified for Instant Messaging.

Claim 14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (cancelled).

Claim 16 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1 wherein command messages are authenticated.

Claim 17 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 16 wherein the authentication is by means of a check for repeated messages by comparing one of the Timestamp: and Cseq: fields of the message against previously stored messages.

Claim 18 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 16 wherein the authentication is by means of a comparison of the Timestamp field to the current system time.

Claim 19 (cancelled).

Claim 20 (cancelled).

Claim 21 (cancelled).

Claim 22 (original): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1 wherein command messages have the portion of their URL to the left of the @ encrypted.

Claim 23 (currently amended): A method for communicating between a client and at least one of a plurality of home networked ~~appliance~~ appliances, comprising the steps of:

forming at least one SIP command message wherein the SIP command message includes a universal resource locator (URL) without location information otherwise specified in the SIP message and a generalized payload body with at least one of control and query instructions specific to home networked appliances;

sending the SIP command ~~messages~~ message to a user agent server (UAS) processor associated with ~~said appliance~~ at least two of said plurality of home networked appliances

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over a communications network by means of a user agent client (UAC) processor wherein the command message has the connection established phased removed such that no session is established between the UAC processor and UAS processor;

mapping the URL of the command message to at least one of said at least two appliances;

translating the received SIP command into instructions recognized by the at least one appliance; and

sending the instructions to the at least one appliance.

Claim 24 (currently amended): A method for communicating between a client and at least one of a plurality of home networked appliance appliances as set forth in claim 23, wherein the command message is a query and further comprising the steps of:

receiving at the UAS processor status information from the at least one appliance in response to a command message query;

translating the status information into a SIP protocol status message;

transmitting the protocol status message over the communications network to said UAC processor; and

displaying the status at the UAC processor.

Claim 25 (cancelled).

Claim 26 (new): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 1 wherein in addition to being connected to the at least one appliance said UAS processor is also connected to a second home networked appliance and wherein said UAS processor has address mapping capability so as to direct commands to a selected at least one of said at least one appliance and said second appliance.

Claim 27 (new): The session initiated protocol (SIP) system of claim 26 wherein the address mapping capability of the UAS processor directs commands to both of said at least one appliance and said second appliance.